

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ROME 02662 051201 Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

----- 115713

O R 051115 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8141

INFO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

S E C R E T ROME 2662

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1 DECLASS. IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE DATE. BY DCM

TAGS: PFOR VS IT

SUBJECT: CONTACTS WITH THE PRG

REF: STATE 051556; ROME 2257; STATE 062096

1. ROME REFTEL REPORTED MARCH 15 STATEMENT BEFORE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES BY ITALIAN FONMIN MEDICI WHICH IMPLIED INCREASED ITALIAN CONTACTS WITH PRG. (BETTER TRANSLATION OF MEDICI' S REMARKS WHICH SHOULD BE SUBSTITUTED FOR ROME REFTEL TEXT IS: QUOTE ALTHOUGH RECOGNITION OF THE PRG IS IN OBVIOUS CONTRAST WITH THE PARIS ACCORDS, NOTHING HINDERS US FROM MAINTAINING WITH EVERY-ONE OPPORTUNE CONTACTS TO COLLABORATE BETTER IN THE REAL APPLICATION OF THE TRUCE AND THE CIVIL DEVELOPMENT OF FREE AND DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS. END QUOTE.

2. ON APRIL 2 THE AMBASSADOR CONVEYED OUR CONCERN TO MEDICI. THE AMBASSADOR STATED THAT USG STRONGLY OPPOSES NOT ONLY ANY MOVE TOWARD RECOGNITION OF THE PRG, BUT ALSO ANY INCREASED CONTACTS WITH IT OR ANY ACTIVITIES WHICH MIGHT ENHANCE APPEARANCE OF PRG LEGITIMACY.

3. ON APRIL 3, UNDER INSTRUCTIONS FROM FONMIN MEDICI, MINISTRY' S DIRECTOR OF ASIAN AFFAIRS CONVEYED TO US MEDICI' S RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR' S DEMARCHE AS FOLLOWS:

(A) THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS NO INTENTION OF INITIATING ANY CONTACTS WITH THE PRG;

(B) MEDICI' S REFERENCE TO POSSIBLE CONTACTS WITH PRG IN HIS STATEMENT

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 ROME 02662 051201 Z

WAS DESIGNED AS SOP TO PARLIAMENTARY LEFTISTS WHO HAD BEEN CLAMORING FOR ITALIAN RECOGNITION OF PRG WHICH MEDICI HAD CATEGORICALLY RULED OUT;

(C) HOWEVER, MEDICI WISHED AMBASSADOR TO UNDERSTAND THAT SHOULD PRG PERSONALITIES APPEAR IN ITALY IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO AVOID THEIR HAVING SOME CONTACT WITH ITALIAN OFFICIALS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING MEDICI HIMSELF.

4. ON APRIL 3 A THREE- MAN PRG DELEGATION HEADED BY SO- CALLED MINISTER OF STATE NGUIEN VAN HIEU, DESCRIBED AS CHIEF OF PRG DELEGATION IN PARIS, ARRIVED IN ROME, REPORTEDLY AT INVITATION OF ITALY/ VIETNAM COMMITTEE. ON APRIL 4 WE MADE SEPARATE APPROACHES TO FOREIGN MINISTRY VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND PRIME MINISTER'S DIPLOMATIC

ADVISOR REMINDING THEM OF MEDICI'S ASSURANCES TO AMBASSADOR RE ITALIAN

CONTACTS WITH PRG. BOTH OFFICIALS RESPONDED THAT PRG REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN ADMITTED TO ITALY FOR VISIT TO VATICAN AND WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE ANY CONTACTS WITH ANY MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT. BOTH DIPLOMATIC

ADVISOR AND VICE DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT PRG OFFICIALS COULD BE RECEIVED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AND OTHER ITALIAN POLITICAL FIGURES, BUT BOTH REITERATED THAT NO RPT NO MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT WOULD SEE THEM. (PRESS APRIL 5 IN FACT STATED VAN HIEU WAS RECEIVED APRIL 5 BY PSI ALESSANDRO PERTINI, PRESIDENT OF CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES).

5. VATICAN OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED APRIL 4 THAT HE UNAWARE OF POSSIBILITY OF ANY MEETING BETWEEN PRG DELEGATION AND POPE OR OTHER VATICAN OFFICIALS. (COMMENT: THIS PHRASEOLOGY WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT PRECLUDE AUDIENCE WITH POPE OR OTHER CONTACT WITH VATICAN OFFICIALS WHICH MIGHT BE SCHEDULED LATER.)

6. ILLING MADE STRONG REPRESENTATION BASED ON STATE'S 051556 AT VATICAN (GASPARI) ON EVENING APRIL 4. GASPARI SHOWED ANNOYANCE AT PRESS SPECULATION RE PAPAL AUDIENCE FOR VAN HIEU, AND ASSURED ILLING NO PAPAL OR OTHER HIGH LEVEL MEETING WOULD TAKE PLACE. HE DID NOT EXCLUDE CONTACTS AT LOWER LEVEL, BUT HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF ANY SUCH CON-

TACTS HAVING BEEN SCHEDULED. VOLPE

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 APR 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973ROME02662
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: ROME
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730434/aaaahrcc.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 051556, 73 ROME 2257, 73 STATE 062096
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Sep-2001 by shawdg>; APPROVED <16-Nov-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971201
Subject: CONTACTS WITH THE PRG
TAGS: PFOR, IT, VS, n/a
To: SAIGON
SECSTATE WASHDC
SS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005